

REMARKS

These remarks are being filed in response to the Office Action mailed February 15, 2008 (the "Office Action"). By this Amendment, claims 5 and 26 are amended. No new matter is added. In the Office Action, all claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Azpuru for extending the courtesy of an Examiner's Interview on March 7, 2008. During the interview, the rejection of all claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, was discussed. Applicants directed the examiner to the process portion of claim 2, which claims, in part, "mixing raw materials containing (in % by weight) 28-33 CaO, 8.5-13 Na₂O, 9.5-15 K₂O, 1.5-3 MgO and 0.1-4 SiO₂" and proposed amending claim 5 to depend on claim 2. It was agreed that this amendment would overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Amendments to the Claims

By this Amendment, claims 5 and 26 are amended to depend on claim 2, rather than claim 1. No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

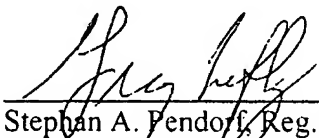
In the Office Action, claims 1-16 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Office Action asserts that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In particular, the Office Action asserted that claim 5 refers to SiO₂ content and SiO₂ content is not disclosed in claim 1. Claim 5 has been amended to depend on claim 2, which recites "mixing raw materials containing (in % by weight) 28-33 CaO, 8.5-13 Na₂O, 9.5-15 K₂O, 1.5-3 MgO and 0.1-4 SiO₂." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth above, the independent claims are believed to be allowable. In addition, the dependent claims are believed to be allowable due to their dependence on an allowable base claim and for further features recited therein. The application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. If any issues remain outstanding, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, Greg Lefkowitz (direct line 561-671-3624), if it is believed that a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
AKERMAN SENTERFITT

Date: March 13, 2008


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